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# TUCKEY'S VOYAGE.

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*An Account of a Voyage to establish a Colony at Port Philip, in Bass's Strait, on the South Coast of New South Wales, in his Majesty's ship Calcutta, in the years 1802-3-4, by J. H. TUCKEY, Esq. First Lieutenant of the Calcutta. One vol. pp. 239. LONGMAN & Co.*

IN a very brief, though modest and well-written Preface, the Author claims the indulgence of the public for the faults, which, he anticipates, must be found in his production, by observing that the anxiety of a seaman's life affords him few moments of "learned ease;" that he is fitted more for action than for thought, and that connected arrangement and logical deduction are only the offspring of retired meditation: but these preliminary remarks only serve to increase the good opinion which the reader must form of Mr. Tuckey's abilities, as every page of his book indisputably proves it to have been written by a scholar and a gentleman. We agree with him, that no apology is necessary for the paucity of nautical observations which it contains; for certainly we should find no amusement in perusing the dry details of common occurrences, which fill the pages of a log-book.

Our author begins by exhibiting the motives which induced government to employ vessels of war instead of merchant-ships for the conveyance of convicts to New South Wales; these were principally the disgraceful abuses which took place on board the latter, together with the great expence at which they were hired; while by employing King's ships for such a purpose, a number of seamen were constantly provided for, and the convicts were maintained in a better state of health and discipline, because his Majesty's officers had neither pecuniary nor commercial interest in the voyage. A secondary consideration, though one of no trivial importance, was the procuring of ship-timber, so abundant in New South Wales, and of which from a variety of causes, that it is not our object to examine or explain, our dock-yards have long been almost exhausted.

The first ship which sailed with convicts for New South Wales, was the *Glatton*, which was followed by the *Calcutta*. They were both fitted alike, armed *en flute*, that is, having only eighteen guns on the upper-deck, rigged as 56-gun ships, and containing as a crew 170 men. While the *Calcutta* was preparing, it occurred to government, that an advantageous esta-



blishment might be formed at the western entrance of Bass's Strait, which was discovered in 1799, by Mr. Bass, surgeon of the *Reliance*, in an open whale-boat. This strait lies in latitude  $39^{\circ}$  S. and separates New Holland from Van Diemen's land: it is from 100 to 130 miles in breadth, and affords a clear passage from the South Sea to the Indian Ocean. The *Calcutta* was in consequence accompanied by the *Ocean* of 500 tons, which was laden with stores for the new settlement, and which carried out many of the officers and settlers, while the *Calcutta* had on board the whole of the convicts, their wives and children, and a detachment of marines.

After various delays, arising from adventitious circumstances, these ships on the 29th of February, 1803, sailed from Yarmouth Roads, and cleared the Channel.

Many of the prisoners on board were accompanied by their wives, who were in some instances women of respectable birth and education; and while the men, inured to vicious habits, considered their departure with indifference or apathy, these females were affected in a pitiable manner at their voluntary exile.

"Amongst the convicts," says Mr. T. "were some who, by prodigality and its attendant vices, had degraded themselves from a respectable rank in society, and were indebted to the lenity of their prosecutors alone for an escape from the last sentence of the law. Some of these men were accompanied by their wives, who had married them in the sunshine of prosperity, when the world smiled deceitfully, and their path of life appeared strewed with unfading flowers: in the season of adversity, they would not be separated, but reposed their heads upon the same thorny pillow; and as they had shared with them the cup of joy, they refused not that of sorrow. Those alone who know the miserable and degraded situation of a transported felon, can appreciate the degree of connubial love, that could induce these women to accompany their guilty husbands in their exile. The laws can only make distinction in crimes, while the criminals, whatever may have been their former situation in life, must suffer alike for crimes of the same nature: it therefore entirely depended on us to ameliorate their condition, and grant such indulgences as the nature and degree of the crime, and the otherwise general character and conduct of the prisoner seemed to deserve. To these helpless females, all the attentions that humanity dictated, and that the nature of our service would admit, were extended; but still it was impossible to separate their situations entirely from their guilty husbands: they were consequently far, very far, from being comfortable; and one of them, borne down by the first hardships of the voyage, which she felt with redoubled force



from being far advanced in her pregnancy, fell a victim to her misplaced affection before our arrival at Teneriffe."

Much praise is due to the officers of the *Calcutta* for their great attention to the health of the convicts, by the enforcement of cleanliness, the only preventative of disease in long voyages. They were allowed fresh water to wash their clothes, so often as the ship touched at any port where it could be procured.

Mr. Tuckey is of opinion that the climate of Teneriffe is as salubrious as it has been represented. He attended the funeral of a native of that island, who had attained upwards of 100 years, while his brother, who was in perfect health, was 94. With respect to the celebrated Peak, he says, "It has by no means the grand appearance that the traveller is taught to expect, but its apparent altitude is much diminished, by the general height of the circumjacent mountains; indeed, the appearance of the eastern side of the island gives a very unfavourable impression of its value; a confused assemblage of rocky hills, heaped upon, and crossing each other in every direction, present themselves to the eye, like the waves of the ocean disturbed by the fury of contending winds and currents. These precipices are bare of vegetation, except where a starved brush-wood insinuates its roots between the rugged masses of volcanic matter, or in a few spots where the industry of man has conquered the sterility of nature, and raised a scanty crop of barley or maize: as we recede from the sea-coast, however, the country improves, and affords many prospects of romantic grandeur and luxuriant fertility. The town of Santa Cruz is built with tolerable regularity, on a gentle acclivity, on the west side of the bay: the landing-place is defended from the sea by a projecting rocky point, and a good stone pier. Being merely a King's port, it derives but little advantage from commerce, which is entirely carried on from the port of Orotava, on the west side of the island. Teneriffe has no manufactures of any consequence, except its wine, nor does it produce corn enough for its own consumption; for this, and also for poultry, it depends upon the other islands, particularly the Grand Canary, with which there is a constant intercourse by boats. The importation of foreign linen or cotton manufactures is prohibited, and consequently those of the English looms bear a high price, and are universally worn; which proves that great restraints laid on any articles of merchandize, serve but to enhance their value, to make them be sought after with more avidity, and to encourage their clandestine importation. It was found that the friars and women, whose persons were held free from scrutiny, smuggled on shore great quantities of these goods; and in consequence, neither are now permitted to go on board any vessel, without



express leave from the Governor. The importation of tobacco, by private traders, is also forbidden, Government drawing part of its colonial revenue from the exclusive sale of this article."

We fully agree with our enlightened author as to the causes of that deeply-imprinted superstition which prevails in Catholic countries; and as a general system of religion is necessary for every state, we must confess that, in our opinion, the greater the pomp with which its ceremonies are administered, the more it is likely to excite the awe and veneration of the multitude. Speaking of the Catholic town of Santa Cruz, he observes, "Toleration of religious opinions has not yet reached this island, and, whatever may be his real persuasion, every person residing here must conform to the external ceremonies of the established church: a heretic is still denied the boon of a consecrated grave, and his hapless ghost must be contented with a mansion in the unpurified bosom of his mother earth, unless it prefers a more extensive sepulchre in the ocean. The bodies of those who die in the faith, are usually interred in the churches; the coffins have no cover, and are filled up with quick-lime, which decomposing the flesh, the bones are afterwards removed to a general charnel-house. This example deserves to be universally followed; but the prejudices of education, which teach us to consider disturbing the dead as a species of horrid sacrilege, still war against our better judgment, and perpetuate the noisome and acknowledged evil of crowded church-yards."

How long this nation, which advances such claims to philanthropical and philosophical progress, will persevere in the detestable custom of annoying the living with the remains of the dead, it is not for us to determine; but we have a deep presentiment, that nothing but the power of the legislature can secure us from the dangers of pestilence, even while performing the duties prescribed by our religion.

In the opinion of Mr. Tuckey, Santa Cruz might be taken by a *coup de main*, the fortifications being in ruins. The inhabitants, however, preserve with great pride as a trophy, the union flags left behind by Lord Nelson, in 1799. Beef is there 4d. per lb. and the best Teneriffe wine is 20l. a pipe.

Nothing worth notice occurred till the arrival of the Calcutta at St. Sebastian. Our author briefly describes the Cape Verd islands, and supposes that the haze which always obscures them, proceeds from the exhalations of the salt lakes. The operations of our seamen for catching sharks is to us novel and pleasing. "The northern tropical seas," says Mr. Tuckey, "are the peculiar residence of the Dolphin, the Bonetta, the Albacore, the Skip-jack, and the Flying-fish; the latter is often seen winging its transient flight, to escape the swift pursuit of the dolphin, while the voracious shark waits its descent; when,



exhausted by the want of moisture, its wings refuse to bear it aloft, and it falls helpless into his devouring jaws. The shark is the hereditary foe of sailors; and the moment one is spied, the whole crew are instantly in arms; often the day's allowance of meat is sacrificed to bait the hook intended to entrap their hungry adversary; while grains, harpoons, and every missive weapon, are pointed at his devoted head. When success attends their operations, and the deluded victim is dragged on board, no pack of hungry fox-hounds can be more restless, till they receive the reward of their labours, than the sailors to tear out the bowels, and examine the stomach of the shark. Here they often recover the pieces of meat used to bait the hooks, which his sagacity had extricated: and after cutting off his fins\*, saving the jaws as objects of curiosity, and reserving a few slices from the tail to eat, the carcase is again committed to the watery element."

The ceremony of passing the line is equally well described. "This," he observes, "though ridiculous enough, is, when ably executed, sufficiently amusing: the ugliest persons in the ship are chosen to represent Neptune and Amphitrite (but the latter name being rather too hard of pronounciation, is always familiarized into Mrs. Neptune); their faces are painted in the most ridiculous manner, and their heads are furnished with swabs well greased and powdered: Neptune's beard is of the same materials; while a pair of grains, or a boat-hook, serve him for a trident: a triumphal car is constructed with chairs fixed on a gun-carriage, or wheel-barrow, in which they are seated, and drawn from the fore-castle to the quarter-deck, by a number of sailors representing Tritons. After enquiries respecting the ship's destination, saluting their old acquaintances, and making the Captain some ridiculous present, such as a dog or cat, under the name of a Canary-bird, they are again rolled forward, and the ceremony of shaving and ducking their new visitors commences. A large tub of salt water is prepared, with a stick across it, on which the visitor is seated; Neptune's barber, after lathering his face well, with a mixture of tar and grease, performs the operation of shaving with a piece of rusty iron hoop, and when clean scraped, which is not accomplished without many wry faces, he is pushed backwards into the tub, and kept there until completely soaked."

After a well-written description of the harbour of Rio Janeiro, Mr. Tuckey makes some just remarks on the slothful conduct and consequent filthiness of the inhabitants of the Brazils, which

\* "The silvery fibres of sharks' fins are manufactured into artificial flying fish, for catching dolphins, &c. These fins also form a considerable article of trade between India and China; the Chinese putting them into their soups."



he contrasts with the admirable cleanliness of the English in similar climates, and attributes the carelessness of the former in point of cleanliness, to their being accustomed to a hot atmosphere in the mother country. The town of St. Sebastian is built entirely of granite, and the streets at a distance appear elegant, but on approaching them you find that the balconies almost come in contact: the houses are two stories high, and possess every inconvenience arising from dirt and heat.

“ There are eighteen parish churches, four monasteries, and three convents in the town of St. Sebastian, besides several smaller religious buildings on the islands, and in the suburbs. Upon these edifices no expence is spared to attract the imagination of the weak and ignorant, by a profusion of gilding, and other tawdry decorations. The “*Hopital de Miseracordie*” is also a religious institution, which receives patients of every denomination, and is principally supported by private benefactions. To these may be added a Penitentiary-House, where the incontinent fair are secluded from the world, to weep for, and atone their faults in solitude and silence; hither jealous husbands, or cross parents, send their too amorous wives and daughters, and doubtless, often upon no better foundation than “*trifles light as air.*” The admission to the nunneries is expensive; and I have heard a fond mother regret her want of fortune, only because it prevented her dedicating some of her beloved daughters to God. The clergy possess immense property in land, houses, and specie: when it was proposed to lay an impost of ten per cent. upon the income of the church, the Benedictine monks offered to commute their part of the tax, by paying 40,000 crowns annually. Their pious desire for the conversion of heretics still glows with all the ardour of bigotry, and the recantation of one protestant is considered of more value than the conversion of 100 pagans; as in heaven there is more joy over one sinner that repenteth, than over ninety and nine just persons. An unfortunate foreigner of this persuasion, who by sickness or other causes is obliged to remain here after his ship sails, is continually plagued by the impertinent intrusion of a dozen of these pious fathers, who, if he can find no means of leaving the country, in general tire his patience out in a few months, and for quietness sake he consents to be saved according to their receipt.”

Our author has made observations on many subjects connected with this town, which seem to have escaped the notice of all former travellers. The following account of the buildings, &c. is, to us at least, perfectly new.

“ Besides the religious buildings, the other public edifices are, the Viceroy's palace, which forms one side of a flagged square,



fronting the landing-place: contiguous to this, and nearly adjoining each other, are the opera-house, the royal stables, the prison\*, and the mint. The opera-house, which holds about six hundred persons, is open on Thursdays, Sundays, and most holidays; the pieces performed are, indifferently, tragedies, comedies, or operas, with interludes and after-pieces; the dialogue is in Portuguese, but the words and music of the songs are Italian. The house is wretchedly fitted up, the scenes miserably daubed, and where foliage is required, branches of *real* trees are introduced; so that while the artificial scenery wears the gay livery of summer, the natural sometimes presents the appearance of autumnal decay. The viceroy is expected by the populace to shew himself at the theatre every night; on his entering the house, the audience rise, turn their faces towards his box, and again sit down. In private companies, no person sits while he stands, unless at his request; thus unsocial formality is the price that greatness every where pays for vulgar admiration."

His account of the manners of the Brazilians is equally interesting.

"Those gradations of fortune, which exist in, and indeed appear to be the necessary consequences of, a well regulated society, are not to be found in the Brazils: the only distinction is the rich and poor; the former are proud though ignorant, and ostentatious though avaricious; and the superabundance of all the mere necessities of life alone, prevents the latter from being indigent beggars. Those who can acquire half a dozen slaves, live in idleness upon the wages of their labour, and stroll the streets in all the solemnity of self-importance. In their general expences, the rich are penurious, and the marriage of their children alone seems to thaw their frozen generosity: on these occasions, they run into the contrary extreme, and ridiculous extravagance becomes the order of the day. I have seen a bridal *chemise*, the needle-work of which had cost fifty pounds, and the rest of the marriage-paraphernalia was in the same proportion of expence. Their entertainments are profuse in proportion as they are rare, but seldom possess any title to elegance, and sometimes want even common cleanliness to recommend them to an English appetite. The carriages in use among the rich are cabriolets, drawn by mules, and chairs curtained round, in which they are carried through the streets by Negro slaves; the latter are also female conveyances. Gaming, the peculiar vice of idleness, is

\* "In passing the prison, strangers are disgusted with the sight of half-starved and naked prisoners, with iron chains extending from their necks to the prison door, sufficiently long to admit their coming to the foot-path of the street, for the purpose of begging."



prevalent among the men. Pharaoh is their favourite game; and the fickle Goddess is here pursued with as much avidity as at Brooks's or Almack's; it is but justice to the Brazilian ladies to say, that they bear no part in this destructive vice, but whether from want of inclination, or from restraint, I cannot take upon me to say."

In their dress it appears that both sexes closely imitate the fashions of the English.

The Brazilian women, in the opinion of our author, can seldom claim the epithet of pretty, though he observes, that "their black eyes, large, full, and sparkling, give a degree of brilliancy to their dark complexions, and throw some expression into their countenances; but it is too generally the mere expression of animal vivacity, untempered by the soft chastising power of tender sensibility. Their eye-brows are finely arched; their eye-lashes long and silken; their hair is long, black, and coarsely luxuriant: and, if we may judge from the frequent application of the fingers, is not always without inhabitants. In their persons, they are unacquainted with that delicate *propreté*, from which our countrywomen derive so large a portion of their power over the other sex, and for which they are conspicuous over all the nations of Europe. Among other habits of the Brazilian ladies, which, separately considered, are perhaps trifling, but when combined form a powerful opposition to the empire of female charms, is that of continually spitting, without regard either to manner, time, or place."

It is not a little remarkable that the young ladies who are educated in the convents, are by no means subjected to such restraints as are imposed on them in similiar institutions on the old continent. They are permitted to speak with strangers through the grating, and seem uncommonly partial to the conversation of Englishmen, who often by ingenuity and the aid of bribery contrive to carry them off. Mr. T. contradicts the assertions of the gentlemen who accompanied Captain Cook, relative to the dropping of *bouquets* on the heads of passengers, as a signal for assignations; and asserts that he found the manners of the unmarried ladies approaching near to the easy familiarity of those of England.

The Brazilians of both sexes excel in music and singing, and the ladies are greatly attached to dancing, which they perform with much grace; they prefer English country dances, though they often perform the indecent native dance of the Indians.

Mr. Tuckey considers it "a fact capable of demonstration," that, in all warm climates, more females are born than males. The proportion of the sexes at Rio, is the extraordinary number of eleven women to two men; and the mortality amongst the

the latter is much greater than the former, who by their seclusion and temperance are less exposed to the dangers of life. Our author while on this subject, makes the following interesting remarks on the women in question: "In the females of Brasil, as well as of other countries in the torrid zone, there is no resting time between the periods of perfection and decline; like the delicate fruits of the soil, the genial warmth of the sun forces them to a premature ripeness, and after a momentary bloom sinks them towards decay: at fourteen they become mothers, at sixteen the blossoms of their beauty are full blown, and at twenty they are withered like the faded rose in autumn. Thus the lives of three of these daughters of the sun are scarce equal to that of one European; among the former the period of their bodily perfection far precedes that of their mental ones, in the latter they accompany each other hand in hand. These principles, doubtless, influenced the wise lawgivers of the East in their permission of polygamy; for, in the torrid zone, should a man be circumscribed to one wife, he must pass nearly two thirds of his days united to a disgusting mummy, useless to society; else the depravity of human nature, joined to the irritation of unsatisfied passions, would lead him to get rid of the incumbrance by clandestine means. This confinement to a single wife in the European settlements of Asia and America, is one of the principal causes of the unbounded licentiousness in the men, and the spirit of intrigue in the women. In the Brasils, the licentious intercourse of the sexes perhaps equals what we are told prevailed in the most degenerate period of Imperial Rome. The primary cause of this general corruption of manners, must be referred to climate, which acts forcibly in giving strength to the physical properties of love. In proportion as the passion for enjoyment is excited, the fear of losing the object which confers it is increased, and hence proceeds the constitutional jealousy of men in warm climates. In the Brasils, the moment a girl is betrothed, she becomes subject to all the restraints imposed by this rankling passion; and should the absence of her intended husband be unavoidable, previous to the nuptial ceremony, he often causes her to be immured within the walls of a convent till his return. By such suspicions he too often creates the evil he complains of, and then punishes the crime he has provoked; and while he thus becomes the arbiter of his own fate, he accuses Nature of causing all his sufferings. Unmarried females, being allowed much greater liberties than wives, are by no means anxious to be married, and consequently neglect all those minute delicacies in their common intercourse with the other sex, which form the basis of mutual love, considered as a refined passion. But the climate operating upon the fair sex more forcibly in pro-

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portion to their superior delicacy of organization, enervates the system, and induces a kind of restless indolence, to which is attached a boundless desire for variety, when it can be procured without much exertion : hence, while the mind is lulled into inactivity, and the eye of prudence sleeps, the bosom is 'tremblingly alive' to the soft sensations of love, and the bulwarks of female innocence lie exposed and defenceless to the attacks of the watchful seducer. The public opinion is not, however, so depraved as to *sanction* this laxity of morals, and hence pregnancy is too often concealed by procuring abortion, which repeated, perhaps, several times, assists in bringing on a premature old age, and sinks the victim to the grave, loaded with guilt and disease.

“ The punishment of adultery is transportation of both the offenders to different places on the coast of Africa ; but the injured husband may revenge himself by the instant death of both parties, if he finds them “ *nudus cum nuda, solus cum sola.*”

Nothing can exceed the filthiness of the city of St. Sebastian, in which dysenteries and fevers are always prevalent, in consequence of the disgusting dirtiness of the inhabitants. The chief animal food of the lower people is, badly salted pork, or jerked beef ; and their drink, ardent spirits ; while their continual use of tepid baths is supposed to be the cause of the hydrocele, with which they are grievously afflicted. In winter, the thermometer is seldom above 74, and sometimes only 65 ; and at this season, heavy dews fall every night. Notwithstanding this great temperature, which causes Europeans to be almost melted in the lightest clothing, the Creoles seem to feel all the severity of winter. The wet season commences in August, and for two months it rains incessantly, after which, in November and December, the heat is intolerable !

We learn that, in the district of Rio Janeiro, the sugar-cane is indigenous, which is not the case with sugar, coffee, cotton, tobacco, and indigo, though all those articles are produced there in abundance. The richness of the soil renders it scarcely ever free from weeds, notwithstanding all the care of the farmer. Of oranges, twelve different kinds are cultivated in these territories ; and many of the eastern spices have been successfully introduced. The horses are small, though hardy, and so abundant in the interior, that the inhabitants catch them when they want to perform a journey, and afterwards turn them loose. Mules are much used, as beasts of burthen, and oxen are brought from Rio Grande, where they cost eight shillings a head, and on arriving at Rio Janeiro, they are sold from fifty shillings to four pounds, though they are slaughtered merely for their hides and tallow.

Lime-bushes and orange-trees here form the fences for farms,



which afford a delightful fragrance; while at night the trees appear beautifully illuminated by thousands of fire-flies.

The mines commence about sixty miles from Rio, of which the large and populous capital is called Minas:—this province extends to the Spanish settlements of Paraguay.

The journey from Matto-Grosso, the farthest settlement of the Portuguese, is made by the river, and requires six months, in consequence of the stream running only in-land; but the return, for the same reason, is made in three months. “The most minute precautions are taken to prevent the concealment of diamonds, by persons of every description coming from the mines; they are not only stripped naked, and minutely searched, but even their horses and mules are *purged*: this strict scrutiny sets ingenuity at work to evade it, and the attempts are often successful. A friar coming from the mines has been known to conceal three superb diamonds in the waxen figure of the Virgin, which he carried in his pocket; the superstition of his examiners held the divine image sacred, and kissing it with greater devotion than they would probably have felt for the loveliest female of mere flesh and blood, returned it to the holy father unexamined.

“The King’s tenth of the gold is taken from the ore at the smelting-house, where it is cast into ingots, which are stamped, and then become a legal tender in payments; if the owner wishes to have it coined, it pays two and a half per cent. at the mint. The colonial gold currency is in pieces of four millres, or twenty-five shillings sterling; these are greatly alloyed, to prevent their exportation from the colony. Most of the gold sent to Portugal is coined into half joes (2*l.*); and the exportation of uncoined gold is forbidden, upon pain of transportation of life to the coast of Guinea.”

The viceroy, it appears, is related to the throne of Portugal, and has an income of nearly 20,000*l.* per annum, seventeen of which arise from the perquisites of his office. This situation is generally filled by poor grandees, in order that they may realize a fortune.

Mr. Tuckey asserts, that there is now no longer that restraint upon, and jealousy towards foreigners, which formerly existed; though it is evident, that greater liberties are allowed to the English in those settlements, than to any other nation. The officers of the Calcutta were permitted to make excursions on foot or horseback, or to wander through the country, in search of game, without the slightest interruption.

It is curious to learn, with what jealousy the mother-country regards the improvement of her colonies, notwithstanding the great advantages which she possesses, by having factories on the opposite coast of Africa, whence she procures a continual supply

of slaves. This jealousy is so great, that the most trifling manufactures are not allowed to enter the colonies, while the casting of church-bells is prohibited with the greatest severity, lest the people should discover, that the same materials will make cannon.

“None but professed merchants,” says Mr. Tuckey, “ever think of turning their money to any account, by interest, &c.: many old misers are known to have very large sums lying dead in their coffers, which, for want of banks, they keep in their own houses, and live upon the wages of their slaves. The trade of Rio de Janeiro, although it has to contend with monopolies, prohibitions, and a heavy duty of ten per cent. but, above all, with the unconquerable indolence of the Portuguese, is by no means trifling, and is annually increasing. It is confined entirely to the mother-country, a direct trade with foreigners, or by foreign ships, being strictly prohibited. The fleets employed in the commerce of Brasil, are confined to the ports of Lisbon and Oporto, whence they sail and return annually, in three fleets: the great disadvantage of this method, however, begins to be seen by the merchants, and single ships are at present allowed to sail from Europe, without confinement to any particular season. All foreign vessels attempting to trade on the coast, are liable to confiscation; and a ship of the line, and two brigs of war, are stationed at Rio, to support these commercial regulations. The annual exports from the port of Rio-Janeiro, are, from good authority, said to amount to 1,613,975*l.* sterling, while the number of ships which sail every year from that port, amounts upon an average to 205.”

All articles of merchandise, whether imported or produced in the country, pay a tenth of their value to the crown. These duties are farmed, and that on fish realises 18,000 crowns per annum. The total amount of the revenue of Rio Janeiro is computed at 4,000,000*l.*

“The annual importation of negro-slaves, is said to amount to between ten and twelve thousand; their value is thus estimated: a full grown man 40*l.* a woman 32*l.* a boy 20*l.*; their value is much increased by their having had the small-pox. The food of the slaves is cassada bread, the Indian corn roasted, and on the sea-coast some fish. In the country, the owners are at no expence for their diet; they allot them a small piece of land, and a day in the week to cultivate it, and from it they are obliged to derive a subsistence for themselves and families. The plantation negroes are entirely naked; but in the towns, their owners have more regard to decency. On the importation of a cargo of negroes, they are christened previous to their sale; for this purpose, they are marched to a church-yard, and separated into as



many groups as there are different names to be given: the priest standing in the middle of each group, flourishes a broom dipped in holy water over their heads until they are all well sprinkled, and, at the same time bawls out to them, what their name is to be. Most of the imported negroes are sent to the mines, to replace those who have fallen victims to their insalubrious atmosphere; many of them die shortly after their arrival, from change of climate and food, and a few from mental despondency."

From some subsequent remarks, we observe, that Mr. Tuckey is a warm and liberal advocate for the liberty and equality of the negroes; and his reflections certainly confer on him the highest credit. The slaves, it appears, in this colony, amount to more than ten times the number of the Europeans, who hold them in subjection. They may purchase their freedom, which the master is obliged to allow them, if they procure a sufficient sum for that purpose. Mr. Tuckey gives the following anecdote, as a fact, which happened a short time previous to his arrival, to shew that instances of heroism often occur amongst the natives of Africa, which would do honour to the ancient inhabitants of Rome.—“ Senor D. was a wealthy planter in the district of the mines, and amongst his numerous slaves was one named Hanno, who had been born on the estate, and whose ingenuity had increased his value much beyond that of his fellows. Scarce had Hanno arrived at that age when every zephyr seems the sigh of love, ere his fondest wishes centered on Zelida, a young female of his own age, and a slave to the same master; in her his partial eye perceived all that was beautiful in person, or amiable in mind: the passion was mutual, it had grown with their growth, and strengthened with their strength; but Hanno, though a slave, possessed the feelings of a man, and his generous soul revolted at the idea of entailing that slavery upon his children, which was the only birth-right he inherited from his fathers. His mind was energetic, and his resolutions immutable: while he fulfilled his daily task, and was distinguished for his diligence and fidelity, he was enabled, by extra labour, and the utmost frugality, to lay by something, without defrauding his master of his time: and at the end of seven years, his savings amounted to the estimated value of a female slave. Time had not altered his passion for Zelida, and they were united by the simple and unartificial bonds of mutual love. The absence of Senor D. for two years prevented the accomplishment of Hanno's first wishes, the purchase of Zelida's freedom, and in that time she had presented him with a boy and a girl. Though slaves from their birth, Hanno was not chagrined, for he had now added to his hoard a sufficient



sum to purchase their liberty likewise. On the return of Senor D. Hanno anxiously demanded a compliance with the law, but well aware of his master's sordid avarice, cautiously affirmed, that a kind friend was to advance him the money. Senor D. agreed to receive the price, and a day was fixed to execute the deeds before a magistrate. On that day Hanno fled upon the wings of hope to his master's house, while it may be supposed the most heartfelt joy animated his bosom, on the prospect of giving immediate liberty to those his soul doated on. He tendered the gold—it was seized as the stolen property of Senor D.; and Hanno being unable to bring forward the supposed lender, was condemned, and the cruelty of his master was exhausted in superintending his punishment. Still bleeding from the scourge, he returned to his hut, which, though the residence of slavery, had till now been cheered by the benign influence of love and hope. He found his wife suckling her infant daughter, while his son, yet unable to walk, was amusing her with his playful gambols upon the bare earth. Without answering Zelida's anxious enquiries, he thus addressed her: 'To procure your liberty, more dear to me than my own, I have, since the moment of our acquaintance, deprived myself of every comfort my state of bondage allows; for that purpose, I have laboured during those permitted hours of relaxation which my fellows have employed in amusements; I have curtailed my scanty meal of cassada, I have sold my morsel of tobacco, and I have gone naked amidst the burning heats of summer, and the pinching colds of winter. I had accomplished the object of all my cares, and all my deprivations, and this morning I tendered to your owner the price of your liberty, and that of your children; but when the deed was to be ratified before the magistrate, he seized it as his own, and accusing me of robbery, inflicted the punishment of a crime my soul detests. My efforts to procure your liberty are abortive; the fruits of my industry, like the labours of the silk-worm, are gone to feed the luxury of our tyrant; the blossoms of hope are for ever blighted, and the wretched Hanno's cup of misery is full. Yet, a way, a sure, but dreadful way remains, to free you, my wife, from the scourge of tyranny, or the violation of lust, and to rescue you, my children, from the hands of an unfeeling monster, and from a life of unceasing wretchedness.' Then seizing a knife, he plunged it into the bosom of his wife, and while reeking with her blood, buried it in the hearts of his children. When seized and interrogated, he answered with a manly tone of firmness, 'I killed my wife and children to shorten a miserable existence in bondage, but I spared my own life to shew my brutal tyrant how easy it is to escape from his power, and

how little the soul of a negro fears death or torment. I expect to suffer the utmost tortures that your cruelty can devise, but pain I despise thus (staking his arm on an iron spike, and tearing it through the flesh), and death I desire, that I may rejoin my wife and children, who have, ere this, an habitation prepared for me in the land of our forefathers, where no cruel white man is permitted to enter.' Even the proud apathy of the Portuguese was roused by this appeal to their feelings; the slave was pardoned and granted his freedom; Senor D. severely fined, and the unworthy magistrate, who seconded his villany, degraded from his office."

A rigorous degree of animosity prevails amongst the negroes that are newly imported; and which gives rise to the most sanguinary contests, from the idea, that their priests can render them invulnerable. The native Indians are not numerous; are declared free by the government; and no restraint is put upon their conduct. The missionaries, it seems, have been very successful in converting them to Christianity.

The garrison of Rio Janeiro contains four thousand regular troops; and the whole of the white inhabitants are liable to be called upon as auxiliaries in time of danger. Mr. Tuckey expresses a very contemptible opinion of the military talents of this united force.

Those who are inclined to cavil at the imposts which our own government is necessitated to lay upon the people, would do well, before they complain, to form their arguments by comparison. They will not, of course, dispute the asseverations of so respectable a writer as Mr. Tuckey, who asserts, that the restraints on trade in the Portuguese colonies are intolerable in the extreme, and that an income-tax of ten per cent. is levied with the greatest rigour.

The following remarks are worthy of the attention of modern politicians. Mr. Tuckey, after expressing his opinion, that the irritations of the mother-country will probably soon drive the colonists to desperation, observes, "The spirit of revolution which, like the element of fire, seems to pervade the habitable globe, at the present moment, is rapidly gaining strength in these Trans-atlantic regions. The philosophy of Helvetius; Voltaire, Rousseau, and Volney, has here its admirers and supporters, who only wait the favourable moment to kindle the latent sparks into a flame. These principles are chiefly circulated and extended by a masonic society; which neither the despotic power of the civil government, nor the denunciations of the church, have been able to suppress or controul. In 1803, this society consisted only of twenty-five brethren; in 1804, their numbers have in-



creased to one hundred. Several officers of the inquisition have been sent from Portugal to suppress it, but without effect; and the presence of these spiritual jackalls, creates but little uneasiness, as they possess no temporal authority, and can only send the culprits to Europe upon proof of their guilt. The French Republic, which seems to neglect no means of revolutionizing every part of the globe, and to which force and intrigue are indifferent in this pursuit, have not forgotten the Brazils, where their emissaries are sufficiently active in the cause of anarchy and confusion. The mother-country, aware of the slippery tenure by which the colony is held, with all the fears of a weak despot, prohibits the erection of a printing-press." Mr. Tuckey conceives, that a revolt in the Brazils would be the signal for a revolution in the whole of South America; a region which he seems to think peculiarly adapted to the growth of powerful states.

Our author left America for the Cape, in July, 1803, and after much bad weather, in which the *Calcutta* parted from the Ocean, the former ship arrived on the 2d of August at the islands of Tristan d'Acunha. These islands are the resort of abundance of sea-elephants; which are highly valued for their oil; and their tongues, when salted, are eaten by seamen on occasions of a scarcity of provisions. The *Calcutta* reached the Cape in eleven days, from these islands.

Although so much has been said by different writers relative to the Cape of Good Hope, yet Mr. Tuckey's remarks are novel and pleasing. He considers Cape-Town to be one of the handsomest colonial towns in the world; the streets being wide, strait, and planted with rows of beautiful oaks and firs. He complains, however, of the disgusting stench which every where arises, from the incessant smoking of tobacco; and he censures the English for their entire neglect of the excellent menagerie which contained all the most curious animals of Africa. He is of opinion, that the isthmus which separates Table and Falsé-Bay, was once, and not very long since, covered by the sea, as it is a plain of sea-sand, mixed with shells. "The S. E. wind, which blows with great fury, forms this sand into hills, which are in some places bare, and in others bound by flowering shrubs, and heaths of various kinds; the distance between the two bays by land is twenty-four miles. Quitting Simmon's town, the road to Mulsenbourg (a small post about six miles from it) sometimes runs along the beach, which is flat, and on which the sea flows with gentle undulations; at others, it winds round the feet of craggy hills, which are covered with masses of stone, suspended almost in air, that seem nodding, and ready to be displaced by



the least impulse ; even the reverberation of sound, one would think, might dislodge them. The sides of these hills are covered with heath and shrubs, which throw out blossoms of every colour in the spring, and they abound in deer and other game. Regiments of baboons assemble on them, and, screened behind the impending rocks, roll down the loose masses on the passing traveller ; wolves also descend from them in large troops, and “ burning for blood, bony, and gaunt, and grim,” seize as their prey the strayed oxen or wandering goats. A few scanty and turbid rills, apparently impregnated with iron, steal down the mountain’s sides ; but scarce a stream deserving the name of rivulet is to be found here.

Viewing the place with a military eye, he gives some excellent hints for its defence, which will be well worth the attention of our government in the event of its recapture, which we hope is not far distant. The following passage, though not entirely novel, is curious.

Mr. Tuckey observes, that the women of the Cape are often pretty when young ; but in a few years they grow uncommonly fat and gross. They were much and openly attached to the English, against whose gallantry the poor Dutchmen had no resource, the ladies being unanimously in favour of the strangers. Another circumstance which forcibly struck our penetrating traveller, was the great difference between the Dutch and the Portuguese in their manners and religious sentiments.

On the 10th of October the Calcutta arrived off King Island, New South Wales. During this course, Mr. T. made a variety of excellent nautical remarks, which we have passed over, though we recommend them to the attention of navigators, who may make that passage. They found the Ocean at anchor in the Bay of Port Philip. It was at this place the new settlement was to be formed, but many disadvantages presented themselves, particularly a want of fresh water. The convicts were, however, landed near the harbour, and some negotiations entered into with the natives, who came to the boats with confidence and unarmed.

The party found the country to be beautifully picturesque ; but as the shore was a continued barrier of rock, and as there was a great scarcity of water, it was considered by no means proper for the establishment of a colony.

The plain to the northward of Port Philip contains a great body of natives, of whom Mr. Tuckey has inserted many curious particulars. When his party had landed, upwards of two hundred of them “ assembled round the surveying boats, and their obviously hostile intentions made the application of fire-arms absolutely necessary to repel them, by which one native was killed, and

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two or three wounded. Previous to this time, several interviews had been held with separate parties, at different places, during which the most friendly intercourse was maintained, and endeavoured to be strengthened on our part, by presents of blankets, beads, &c. At these interviews they appeared to have a perfect knowledge of the use of fire-arms; and as they seemed terrified even at the sight of them, they were kept entirely out of view. The last interview which terminated so unexpectedly hostile, had at its commencement the same friendly appearance. Three natives, unarmed, came to the boats, and received fish, bread, and blankets. Feeling no apprehension from three naked and unarmed savages, the First Lieutenant proceeded with one boat to continue the survey, while the other boat's crew remained on shore to dress dinner and procure water. The moment the first boat disappeared the three natives took leave, and in less than an hour returned with forty more, headed by a chief who seemed to possess much authority. This party immediately divided, some taking off the attention of the people who had charge of the tent, (in which was Mr. Harris the surveyor of the colony,) while the rest surrounded the boats, the oars, masts, and sails of which were used in erecting the tent. Their intention to plunder was immediately visible, and all the exertions of the boat's crew were insufficient to prevent their possessing themselves of a tomahawk, an axe, and a saw. In this situation, as it was impossible to get the boat away, every thing belonging to her being on shore, it was thought advisable to temporise, and wait the return of the other boat, without having recourse to fire-arms, if it could possibly be avoided; and for this purpose bread, meat, and blankets were given them. These condescensions, however, seemed only to increase their boldness, and their numbers having been augmented by the junction of two other parties, amounted to more than two hundred. At this time the other boat came in sight; and observing the tumult at the tent, pushed towards them. Upon approaching the shore the unusual warlike appearance of the natives was immediately observed, and as they seemed to have entire possession of the tent, serious apprehensions were entertained for Mr. Harris and two of the boat's crew, who it was noticed were not at the boat. At the moment that the grapnel was hove out of the Lieutenant's boat, to prevent her taking the ground, one of the natives seized the master's mate, who had charge of the other boat, and held him fast in his arms: a general cry of "Fire, Sir; for God's sake, fire!" was now addressed from those on shore to the First Lieutenant. Hoping the report only would sufficiently intimidate them, two muskets were fired over their heads; for a moment they seemed to pause, and a few retreated behind the trees, but immediately returned, clapping their hands, and shouting vehe-



mently. Four musquets with buck shot, and the fowling-pieces of the gentlemen with small shot, were now fired among them, and from a general howl, very different from their former shouts, many were supposed to be struck. This discharge created a general panic, and leaving their cloaks behind, they ran in every direction among the trees. It was hoped the business would have terminated here, and orders were, therefore, given to strike the tent, and prepare to quit the territory of such disagreeable neighbours. While thus employed, a large party were seen again assembling behind a hill, at the foot of which was our tent: they advanced in a compact body to the brow of the hill, every individual armed with a spear, and some, who appeared to be attendants of others, carrying bundles of them; when within a hundred yards of us they halted, and the chief, with one attendant, came down to the tent, and spoke with great vehemence, holding a very large war spear in a position for throwing. The First Lieutenant, wishing to restore peace if possible, laid down his gun, and advancing to the chief, presented him with several cloaks, necklaces, and spears, which had been left behind on their retreat; the chief took his own cloak and necklace, and gave the others to his attendant. His countenance and gestures all this time betrayed more of anger than fear, and his spear appeared every moment upon the point of quitting his hand. When the cloaks were all given up, the body on the hill began to descend, shouting and flourishing their spears. Our people were immediately drawn up, and ordered to present their musquets loaded with ball, while a last attempt was made to convince the chief, that if his people continued to approach they would be immediately fired upon. These threats were either not properly understood, or were despised, and it was deemed absolutely necessary for our own safety, to prove the power of our fire-arms, before they came near enough to injure us with their spears; selecting one of the foremost who appeared to be most violent, as a proper example, three musquets were fired at him at fifty yards distance, two of which took effect, and he fell dead on the spot; the chief turning round at the report saw him fall, and immediately fled among the trees; a general dispersion succeeded, and the dead body was left behind.

“ Among these savages, gradations of rank could be distinctly traced, founded probably upon personal qualities and external appearance. In these respects the chief far excelled the rest; his figure was masculine and well proportioned, and his air bold and commanding. When first he was seen approaching the boat, he was raised upon the shoulders of two men, and surrounded by the whole party, shouting and clapping their hands. Besides his cloak, which was only distinguished by its superior size, he wore



a necklace of reeds, and several strings of human hair over his breast. His head was adorned with a coronet of the wing-feathers of the swan, very neatly arranged, and which had a pleasing effect. The faces of several were painted with red, white, and yellow clays, and others had a reed or bone ran through the septum of the nose, perhaps increasing in length according to rank, for the chief's was by far the longest, and must have measured at least two feet. Ornamental scars on the shoulders were general, and the face of one was deeply pitted as if from the small-pox, though that disease is not known to exist in New Holland. A very great difference was observed in the comparative cleanliness in these savages; some of them were so abominably beastly, that it required the strongest stomach to look on them without nausea, while others were sufficiently cleanly to be viewed without disgust. The beards, which are remarkably bushy, in the former were allowed to grow, while in the latter they were cut close, apparently by a sharp instrument, probably a shell.

“The only traces of society we could observe, was in a cluster of five huts, near which a well of brackish water was probably the only inducement to so close a neighbourhood. We had a sufficient proof of their burying their dead, by finding a human skeleton three feet under ground, while digging for water; its decayed state evinced its having been in the ground long before the arrival of any European at this port.

“The only domestic utensil observed among them was a straw basket, made with tolerable neatness. Their cookery is confined to broiling, in which they are not very delicate; for the fish they sometimes received from us were put on the fire, and devoured without the preparation of gutting, cleaning, &c.”

From the unfavourable circumstances above-mentioned, it was deemed expedient to remove the colony to the river Derwent, on the south coast of the island, where a small party from Port Jackson had already taken up their residence, and the soil and climate of which are uncommonly fertile and healthy. This object being accomplished, the *Calcutta* took in a cargo of timber, sailed on the 17th March 1804, and arriving at Rio Janeiro on the 22d May, by doubling Cape Horn, performed a voyage round the world in eleven months. From this river the *Calcutta* sailed for England the first of June.

The style of Mr. Tuckey in some instances savours too much of the Radcliffean imagery; but we must in justice declare, that it would, on the whole, suffer nothing by comparison with the writings of the most celebrated literati of the present age; while it affords a rare example of the combination of nautical and refined literary attainments.

END OF TUCKEY'S VOYAGE.























